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ADDRESS BY ADMIRAL STANSFIELD TURNER

DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

19 SEPTEMBER 1977

IN HONOR OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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THIS IS INDEED AN EXCITING DAY FOR ALL OF US WITH 90 PEOPLE IN THE AGENCY WHO HAVE BEEN HERE 100% OF THE AGENCY'S LIFE, WE HAVE A GREAT DEAL TO BE THANKFUL FOR, FOR THAT KIND OF DEDICATION AND LOYALTY AND OF COURSE THERE ARE MANY MORE WITH PERCENTAGES THAT RANGE SOMEWHERE BETWEEN THAT 100 AND MY 1.7%. BUT I'LL TELL YOU IN GREAT SINCERITY AS THE NEWCOMER ON THE STREET I CERTAINLY HAVE A LOT OF RESPECT AND A LOT OF GRATITUDE FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE BEEN HERE WITH THE AGENCY A HIGH PERCENTAGE OF ITS LIFE. AND I THINK THE COUNTRY SHOULD REMEMBER THE DEBT THAT IT OWES TO THOSE WHO HAVE TRAIL BLAZED THE WAY FOR THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OVER THESE MANY YEARS. AND LET ME SAY THAT WHAT THEY HAVE DONE FOR ALL THE REST OF US, WE NEWCOMERS WITH ONLY 1.7% OF OPPORTUNITY TO BE IN THIS FINE AGENCY, IS THEY HAVE ESTABLISHED A REPUTATION AND A RECORD FOR QUALITY. AND I THINK THAT THE COUNTRY RECOGNIZES THAT. AND THE FACT, FOR INSTANCE, THAT THIS MORNING WE WERE ABLE TO GO ON NATIONAL TELEVISION AND GET WHAT I THINK WAS A FAIR HEARING, A FAIR PRESENTATION OF OUR CASE, TO ME INDICATES THE STRENGTH OF SUPPORT AND UNDERSTANDING OF OUR QUALITY THAT DOES EXIST.

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I HAVE JUST COME BACK FROM A TRIP TO SOME OF OUR FIELD STATIONS, VISITED THREE STATIONS AND THREE BASES IN THE LAST WEEK; TALKED WITH A GREAT MANY PEOPLE, TALKED TO ALL THE PEOPLE AT EACH BASE AND EACH STATION, AND SOMETIMES I GOT THE FEELING THAT PEOPLE WERE STILL A LITTLE WORRIED BECAUSE OF ALL THE ADVERSE PUBLICITY THAT WE HAVE ALSO HAD CONCENTRATED IN THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS. AND SOME PEOPLE EXPRESSED THE OPINION TO ME THAT THEY WERE CONCERNED BECAUSE SOME OF THEIR CHILDREN WERE SOMETIMES ASHAMED--THEY USED THAT WORD--THAT THEIR PARENTS WORKED FOR THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY. LET ME SAY THAT THERE IS UTTERLY NO QUESTION IN MY MIND THAT ALTHOUGH THERE MAY HAVE BEEN A FEW INDIVIDUALS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS AGENCY WHO SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF SOME OF THE THINGS THEY DID, THAT ON BALANCE, THE VAST, VAST MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE ASSOCIATED HERE, AND THE AGENCY ITSELF, CAN BE NOTHING BUT PROUD, PROUD OF ITS ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THESE PAST 30 YEARS. AND I PREDICT TO YOU THAT THE BALANCE OF HISTORY WILL SET ASIDE THE HISTRIONICS OF THE PAST FEW YEARS AND RECOGNIZE THE WORTH, THE VITALITY OF THE CONTRIBUTION WHICH THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY HAS MADE OVER THESE 30 YEARS TO OUR COUNTRY'S SECURITY.

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AND I WOULD SAY TO YOU FURTHER TODAY THAT NEVER HAS THE FUTURE OF OUR AGENCY BEEN BRIGHTER. IT'S BRIGHTER, FIRST, BECAUSE AS YOU PROFESSIONALS IN THIS FIELD KNOW, THERE HAS NOT BEEN IN THESE 30 YEARS A GREATER NEED IN OUR COUNTRY FOR GOOD INTELLIGENCE. I NEED NOT ELABORATE ON WHY THAT'S THE CASE; YOU KNOW IT FROM WHAT YOU ARE DOING, YOU KNOW IT FROM YOUR INSTINCTS, YOU KNOW IT FROM THE WAY YOU SEE THE WORLD DEVELOPING AROUND YOU. IT'S NOT THAT I'M A PESSIMIST, IT'S NOT THAT I'M WORRIED THAT THE RUSSIANS ARE COMING OVER THE HILL TOMORROW MORNING, IT'S THAT THE COMPLEXITIES, THE NUMBER OF AREAS OF THE WORLD, THE NUMBER OF FIELDS OF INTELLIGENCE IN WHICH OUR COUNTRY IS INVOLVED TODAY, IS EXPANDING MORE AND MORE AND THE NEED FOR US TO BE SMART, TO UNDERSTAND WHAT'S GOING ON, TO GIVE LEVERAGE TO OUR MILITARY FORCES AND OUR ECONOMIC POTENTIAL IS GREATER TODAY THAN IT REALLY HAS EVER BEEN BEFORE. THE RELIANCE UPON US IS GOING TO BE INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT TO OUR COUNTRY.

AND WITH OUR AGENCY I SAY THAT THAT PERTAINS TO ALL FACETS OF ITS ACTIVITIES; ON THE COLLECTION SIDE TO THE HUMAN INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION AND TO THE TECHNICAL FIELDS OF IMAGERY AND SIGNALS INTELLIGENCE. ON THE ANALYSIS SIDE

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TO THE ANALYTIC CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE NIOs AND THE DDI WHO STILL REMAIN THE VITAL, ONLY ANALYTIC ORGANIZATION OF THE GOVERNMENT NOT ASSOCIATED IN ANY WAY WITH THE POLICY FUNCTION. AND THEN ALL OF THE SUPPORT ELEMENTS MUST STRIVE, MUST GO FORWARD WITH INCREASED IMPORTANCE, AS DO THE COLLECTION AND PRODUCTION ELEMENTS--THE COMMUNICATORS, THE PERSONNEL, THE LOGISTICIANS, THE LEGAL, THE LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL, THE COMPROLLER, AND SO ON. AND I SAY THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT BECAUSE WE ARE GOING TO BE NEEDED.

AND I THINK WE AS AN AGENCY WILL BE NEEDED MORE AS A RESULT OF THE RECENT PRESIDENTIAL DECISIONS ON REORGANIZATION. WHAT I SEE THE REORGANIZATION AS DOING IS ATTEMPTING TO CENTRALIZE CONTROL OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY OF THE UNITED STATES MORE THAN IT HAS BEEN IN THE PAST. AND WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

THAT MEANS WE'RE TRYING TO GO BACK TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY ACT OF 1947 WHICH ORIGINALLY ESTABLISHED OUR AGENCY AND INTENDED IT TO BE THE COORDINATING ELEMENT OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY. AS ALL OF US HERE KNOW IT NEVER WORKED OUT QUITE THE WAY THE WRITERS OF THE '47 ACT INTENDED, BUT THE PURPOSE NOW IN THE REORGANIZATION AND THE STRENGTHENING OF THE CENTRAL CONTROL IS TO MOVE BACK IN THAT DIRECTION. THE FORM BY WHICH WE WILL GET THERE MAY BE DIFFERENT THAN

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WAS INTENDED IN 1947, BUT WITH IT I SAY TO YOU WITH GREAT CONVICTION, EACH OF THE ELEMENTS OF OUR AGENCY WILL BE CALLED UPON TO PLAY A MORE PREDOMINANT ROLE THAN EVER BEFORE.

AND FINALLY I WOULD SAY THAT THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT FOR US BECAUSE WE HAVE SUCH A STRONG BASE OF QUALIFIED, DEDICATED PEOPLE. SOME OF YOU 30 YEAR VETERANS AND SOME OF US MUCH SHORTER, BUT I AM CONFIDENT THAT THIS IS THE STRENGTH WITH WHICH WE WILL MOVE FORWARD. AND THERE IS NOTHING MORE IMPORTANT IN MY EYES TODAY THAN IN OPERATING OUR AGENCY IN SUCH A WAY AS TO ATTRACT IN AT THE BOTTOM AND TO RETAIN THROUGH THE STRUCTURE THE KIND OF PEOPLE, THE QUALITY OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE GIVEN US THIS RECORD TO BE PROUD OF FOR THE PAST 30 YEARS. AND I SUGGEST THAT WE MUST ALL DEDICATE OURSELVES TODAY, ON THIS BIRTHDAY, TO CONTINUING, THROUGH INSPIRATION, LEADERSHIP, GUIDANCE OF OUR PEOPLE, TO BUILD THE FOUNDATION SO THAT THE PEOPLE SITTING IN OUR SEATS 30 YEARS FROM TODAY CAN LOOK BACK AND SAY WITH THE SAME CONFIDENCE, WITH THE SAME SENSE OF CONVICTION THAT THE RECORD OF THIS AGENCY OVER THE NEXT 30 YEARS WILL BE AS OUTSTANDING AS IT HAS OVER THE PAST 30.

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I WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND I THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU HAVE DONE, YOU ARE DOING AND I KNOW YOU WILL CONTINUE TO DO FOR THIS, OUR GREAT AGENCY.

THANK YOU.

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